

## July 24, 2009 - Murtha: House Passes Funding for Local Hospitals and Job Training Programs

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that the House of Representatives has passed a \$160.7 billion fiscal year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill that includes funding for local hospitals and job training programs.

The appropriations bill includes \$550,000 for the United Mine Workers of America's Enhanced Mining Skill and Safety Training program. This program provides miners with basic and advanced technical training needed to enhance job skills and safety knowledge. The UMWA also operates Career Centers in southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia to offer training and retraining programs to miners who have lost their jobs.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$200,000 for the Johnstown Area Regional Industries (JARI) Workforce Development program. This funding will be used to expand the current workforce development program to offer increased training opportunities and work experiences for entrepreneurs, new hires, incumbent, and displaced workers.

"It's essential in today's tough economy to have workforce development programs that enhance job skills and training," said Murtha. "Both the UMWA and JARI do an outstanding job with programs that help both individuals and employers navigate today's demanding job market."

The appropriations bill also includes \$400,000 to provide key pieces of diagnostic radiologic equipment to the Mon Valley Hospital. This equipment, which is essential to the hospital's continued ability to serve the Mon Valley, includes mammography units, a fluoroscopy unit, and cystoscopy equipment.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$350,000 for Indiana Regional Medical Center's Electronic Medical Record Initiative. Implementing an electronic medical record system will improve the hospital's ability to serve patients by reducing errors, wait times, and costs.

The appropriations bill also includes \$300,000 to assist Highlands Hospital with a much needed expansion of the hospital's emergency department.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$150,000 for Excelsa Health, Frick Hospital to develop a breast care center that includes digital mammography and ultrasound imaging.

"With health care costs continuing to rise, many of our smaller regional hospitals do not have the financial resources to make capital improvements," added Murtha. "These hospital improvements are absolutely essential to the health and well-being of our communities, and I'm proud to be able to secure funding for them."

The FY10 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill also makes key national investments into:

- National Institutes of Health (NIH): \$31.3 billion for biomedical research to improve health and reduce health care expenditures.

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP): \$5.1 billion, \$1.9 billion above the President's request, to provide approximately 7.5 million low-income households with home energy assistance.

- Head Start: \$7.2 billion to sustain high-quality, comprehensive early childhood services, including educational, health, nutritional, and social services, to approximately 978,000 low-income children before they enter school.

- Reducing Abortions: \$7.8

billion, \$61 million above the President's request, for programs that help reduce the number of abortions in America by alleviating the economic pressures and other real life conditions that can cause women to decide not to carry their pregnancies to term.

- Pell Grants: Increases the maximum Pell Grant award to \$5,550.

- Teacher Incentive Fund: \$446 million to support compensation programs that aim to reward effective teaching and rising student achievements.

- Public Broadcasting: \$541 million, \$40 million above the President's request, for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

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